



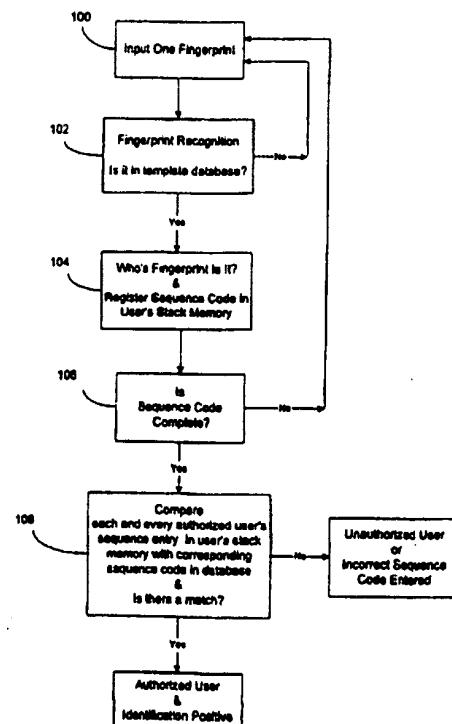
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(54) Title: USER IDENTIFICATION THROUGH SEQUENTIAL INPUT OF FINGERPRINTS

(57) Abstract

An identification system using biometric information of human body parts and a secret sequence code. In particular, a user to be identified enters one fingerprint (100). If there is at least one match, the system asks the user to be identified to complete a sequence code (106) and compares each and every authorized users sequence entry to determine if there is a match (108).



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USER IDENTIFICATION
THROUGH SEQUENTIAL INPUT OF FINGERPRINTS

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Field of the Invention

The present invention teaches a technique of identifying a user through sequential input of human body part information. More specifically, the present invention teaches a technique of recognizing a specified sequence of 10 user's fingerprints as a key to identification of the person.

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Background and Summary

Biometrics is a study of using a physical trait in a human body part for verifying identity. Various techniques 15 in the art have been suggested including recognition of fingerprints, recognition of retinal scans, palm prints, DNA traces, and others. Each of these human body part identification techniques has its own host of limitations.

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Fingerprint identification is extremely reliable, 20 when used properly. However, proper identification of a fingerprint requires massive amounts of computer power. A reasonably-sized computer system might take two to three seconds to identify a fingerprint with a reasonable degree of certainty. Moreover, smudges and other imperfect entry 25 of fingerprint information can often leave traces which hinder accurate verification of the fingerprints.

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Users rapidly lose patience with any system that gives them a false rejection. Hence, it is often desirable to leave the logic "wide open"; that is to allow recognition 30 of a fingerprint with only a minimal degree of matching relative to the stored original. This tradeoff makes it

less likely that a proper fingerprint will be erroneously rejected. However, it makes it more likely that an improper fingerprint will be erroneously recognized as being proper. The processing necessary to make a rough identification of such a fingerprint is less than that necessary to make a detailed identification, allowing a quicker recognition.

5 Some have suggested that a fingerprint detection system, especially a loose-logic system like the above-described, could be bypassed by taking a photocopy of a 10 fingerprint of an appropriate type. Others have grotesquely suggested cutting off the user's finger or keeping the user as a captive in order to use their fingerprint.

15 The same problems do not exist in a personal identification system based on confidential personal identification numbers (PINs). Conventional ways to form a PIN include using a series of numbers, or a series of alphabetic letters, or a combination of letters and numbers. A secret PIN is known only by the user. Detection of the 20 entry of the correct PIN is relatively simple. The system cannot be fooled by a fake PIN. However, various techniques are available to obtain a PIN surreptitiously. The user can be forced to tell the PIN number to another. A PIN number 25 can be observed, e.g. by watching the user enter it. Since any user can enter the PIN number, its security depends on secrecy.

30 It is an object of the present invention to adapt the systems described above. Specifically, the present inventors devised a system which uses some features in body parts for identification and in addition implements a secret code formed by a sequence of body parts to further enhance the identification. The inventors believe that use of the unique coding features in a user body part verification, in conjunction with the secrecy of personal identification

numbers combines some of the best features of both identification systems. The logic can be left wide open (i.e., a loose-logic) to allow quick recognition of body parts, e.g., fingerprints. The present invention, however, goes against the established teaching in a biometric identification system to further make a positive identification by requiring that secret information be entered as a part of the biometric information, e.g., a secret sequence formed by fingerprints.

The inventors recognized the distinct advantages of a biometric identification systems by employing some bio-components in human's body parts to obtain certain information usually unique only to a particular person. The body parts used in the present invention are readily available to the user at anytime and anywhere. The present invention uses fingerprints in preferred embodiments disclosed herein to exemplify the concept of the invention.

The inventors recognized that multiple bio-components of a person can be used for redundancy and enhancing the possibility of a positive identification. Multiple fingerprints of a person to be identified, for example, are used in the present invention to obtain multiple matches in comparison of the entered fingerprints with the fingerprints of a user stored in a database.

Importantly, the inventors recognized the limitations in various biometric identification systems including system processing speed, identification ambiguity, and security. In particular, the inventors recognized the identification ambiguity and security issues in fingerprint identification. The present invention implements a novel personal identification coding system with a sequence code of bio-components of human body parts. Use of sequence codes formed by body parts in accordance with the present

invention significantly increases the possibility of a positive identification and provides additional security against unauthorized use of body parts. Moreover, sequence codes of the present invention allows a coarse recognition in body part recognition without compromising the system performance. This reduces the computation that is required to positively recognize body features.

In the preferred embodiments of the present invention, multiple fingerprints of a person (e.g., three fingerprints of a person) are entered and processed to identify a particular user in the system database. A confidential sequence code constructed by multiple fingerprints is used to make a final positive identification of the user. For example, a sequence is formed by five fingerprints selected from three different fingers of a user. Examples of various encoding methods are described herein.

The inventors further recognized the importance of tamper-resistance in such identification systems. In order to be positively recognized by the system of the present invention, an intruder's bio-components in body parts, e.g., fingerprints, must be very similar to a user's information stored in the system database. Even if the intruder obtains a false fingerprint or a user's real fingerprints, or somehow fools the identification system in fingerprint matching, the intruder still does not know the secret information, e.g., the proper personal identification code. Moreover, even if the intruder were to observe a user entering the secret code, the intruder still would not be able to re-enter that code, because the intruder needs the body part for a biometric matching (e.g., a matching of fingerprints).

In addition, the inventors recognized the technical problems and challenges in biometric identification systems which compare entered bio-components of human body parts (e.g., fingerprints) with the corresponding data of a user in the system database. For example, large amount of data is to be processed in such a system identifying fingerprints since images of entered fingerprints are compared with stored images in the system database and specially in a large database common in many commercial applications.

10 Electronic processing techniques often take a long time to correlate the input fingerprint images with the stored images in the database due to the limitations of the microprocessors and the serial processing nature.

15 One aspect of the present invention defines using the parallel processing capability as well as the fast processing speed of an optical correlator to significantly increase the processing speed of the identification system disclosed herein. In particular, multiplexed volume holographic storage media are used in the optical correlator incorporated in the present invention for fast data 20 accessing and image processing.

The present invention can also be applied to electronic processing systems that use Digital Signal Processing (DSP) algorithms for matching body features. One unique aspect of such a system is that it can leave the logic wide open in matching body features to reduce the computational time while still retaining the high security of the system by using secret sequence codes formed with body parts.

Brief Description of the Drawings

These and other aspects of the present invention will become apparent in the detailed description herein with reference to the following accompanying drawings, in which:

5 Figure 1 is a flow chart showing the basic components of a first identification method in the present invention;

10 Figure 2 shows a block diagram of a hybrid identification system based on the present invention using an optical correlator;

Figure 3 shows an example of optical correlators used in the present invention; and

Figure 4 shows a block diagram of an electronic implementation of the present invention.

Detailed Description of the Invention

The preferred embodiment of the present invention describes a method of identifying a person by using both a physical trait in a body part of the person and a personal identification sequence code that is formed by using the physical trait thereof. The present invention further discloses various systems including one with optical processors to implement the method. Fingerprints will be used to exemplify the concept and the spirit of the invention in the detailed description hereinafter and should not be construed as limitations of the invention.

Biometric traits, such as fingerprints, often have features or information which are uniquely associated with a particular person. It is known that fingerprints can be used for identification. Conventional fingerprint identification methods compare a fingerprint of a person with authorized fingerprints stored in a template database. There are uncertainties in such a matching process due to various reasons: including possible similarities of fingerprints from different people and an improper entry of a fingerprint.

One embodiment of the present invention improves the accuracy of fingerprint identification by using multiple fingerprints of a person for redundancy. This reduces the possibility of erroneous matching as well as erroneous mismatch. In addition, secret information is formed by using body parts for further identification in the present invention. As an example, at least one fingerprint is used to form a secret sequence code in preferred embodiments. The secret sequence codes of the present invention allow using loose-logic in fingerprint recognition so that an imperfect matching relative to a stored original fingerprint is permitted. According to the present invention, this

5 makes it less likely that a proper fingerprint will be erroneously rejected. The loose-logic thereabove is tightened afterwards by use of both the secret sequence codes and multiple fingerprints. This increases the overall
10 processing speed, since the processing necessary to make a rough identification is usually much less than that necessary to make a real identification in fingerprint recognition. Other advantages of the fingerprint sequence codes include their superiority over conventional PINs in both the accuracy and security.

15 Figure 1 shows a preferred embodiment of the above identification system using fingerprint sequence codes in the present invention. The process illustrated in Figure 1 is implemented by various systems disclosed herein, examples of which are shown in Figures 2, 3, and 4. The system includes a template database with a plurality of different fingerprints from authorized users, a sequence code database with secret sequence codes of all authorized users, and a user stack memory having blank spaces for authorized users
20 to store the corresponding secret sequence code. According to the present invention, different authorized users have different secret sequence codes and one user's secret sequence code is not known by another user.

25 The system of the present invention examines whether a user to be identified is in the template database by comparing at least one fingerprint entered by the user with the stored fingerprints of authorized users. The disclosed system further checks whether or not the user's entered sequence code matches the secret sequence code kept in the
30 sequence code database from one authorized user whose fingerprints match the user's. Furthermore, the system is constructed to minimize the processing time and thereby to simulate a "real-time" identification process.

A user to be identified first enters one fingerprint at the process 100. The entered fingerprint is compared with the fingerprints of the authorized users stored in the template database in fingerprint identification process 102.

5 If there is no match, the user is not recognized. If there is at least one match, the system identifies which authorized user is matched and further registers the entered fingerprint as the first entry of a secret sequence code of the matched authorized user in the user stack memory. This

10 completes step 104.

Next, the system checks if a sequence code is completed with the first entered fingerprint in step 106. If a sequence code is not completed, the system asks the user to be identified to enter a second fingerprint. The

15 above process repeats until a complete sequence code is constructed with at least one entered fingerprint.

In step 108, the system compares entries of sequence codes in the user stack memory including unregistered blanks with their corresponding sequence code stored in the

20 sequence code database. This comparison is performed for all authorized users in the database whether or not there is a fingerprint match between the entered fingerprints and the fingerprints in the sequence code. If the entered

25 fingerprint sequence code matches the sequence code of the authorized user in the sequence code database, the system renders a positive identification and the user is considered an authorized user. Therefore, the user to be identified not only has entered correctly matched fingerprint(s) but also has entered the correct sequence code of the matched

30 authorized user. If there is no match in sequence code comparison, the identification is negative and the user either is not in the database or has entered an incorrect sequence code.

More than one match will usually not occur because the system is designed in a way such that all authorized users in the database have different data, i.e., at least one dissimilar fingerprint and a unique sequence code.

5 After an identification is made, the system resets the user stack memory to zero and is ready to process another user.

A secret sequence code for an authorized user is formed by a combination of fingerprints. The number of fingerprints to be entered is dependent on the sequencing 10 method to construct the code. On the other hand, a particular sequencing method also affects the way that a fingerprint is entered. According to the present invention, there are many ways to form a sequence code using at least one fingerprint. The inventors list several embodiments of 15 forming a fingerprint sequence code in the following in order to illustrate the concept of the present invention. It should be understood that the system described in the preferred embodiment could be used for any of these and other variations based on the concept and spirit of the 20 present invention.

1. A Multiple-Fingerprint Sequential Code. A combination of a plurality of different fingerprints are used in this method to construct a sequence code. In particular, a sequence code is formed by a sequential order 25 in which a combination is entered. For example, a code uses five fingerprints that is a combination of three different fingerprints.

One advantage of using a plurality of different fingerprints is redundancy. A fingerprint, like many other physical traits used in biometric identification, is usually 30 uniquely associated to a particular person. The possibility of two people having one identical fingerprint is small. However, there is a possibility of two people have one

similar though not identical fingerprint. Specially, the degree of similarity of a fingerprint between two people is dependent on the identification technique and device that are used. Employing multiple different fingerprints for 5 identification further takes the advantage of uniqueness of fingerprints to minimize the possibility of two people having the same identity in the fingerprint identification system disclosed in the present invention. In addition, the present invention uses sequence codes formed with a 10 plurality of different fingerprints to ensure the accuracy of an identification and security of the system.

2. A Fingerprint Morse Code. A user enters one fingerprint for different time duration on the fingerprint input device. By removing and placing the user's 15 fingerprint on the input device for a plurality of times with different duration, a fingerprint Morse Code is generated and then compared with the stored Morse Code of that particular user for positive identification. One fingerprint is sufficient for this method. An alternative 20 technique uses one fingerprint for "dots" and a different one for "dashes". However, a plurality of different fingerprints are preferred to take advantage of redundancy.

3. A Spatial Sequence Code Using Multiple Different Fingerprints. A plurality of different fingerprints are 25 entered in a input device simultaneously. The input surface of the input device is registered by the system. A sequence code is formed by the relative spatial order or position of the fingerprints on the input device.

4. An Orientation Sequence Code. At least one 30 fingerprint is entered sequentially for a plurality of times. A sequence code is formed by the different relative orientation at which a fingerprint is entered. For example, one fingerprint can be used to form a code by rotating the

finger 90° at one sequential entry relative to another entry.

5 5. A Spatial/Sequential Code. This method forms a code by using positioning information in addition to the time sequence described in the first method of time sequence code. The input surface of the input device is registered by the system. A code is formed by two criterions, including the time sequence of a plurality of fingerprints that are entered and the relative positioning of the entered 10 fingerprints on the input device. In this method, one fingerprint is entered at a time. Either one fingerprint or a plurality of different fingerprints can be used to form the sequence code.

15 According to the present invention, any of the above methods, any of other sequencing methods, and any combination thereof are used to form a fingerprint sequence code. Variations on the total number of fingerprints and the number of different fingerprints in a sequence code are implied.

20 20 Various methods of recognizing an input fingerprint and different identification system implementations are contemplated in the present invention. Figure 2 is one preferred embodiment of an identification system based on optical recognition of fingerprints. The system includes an input terminal 200, an optical correlator 210, an electronic processor 220, an output terminal 230 and other devices. The input terminal 200 can be any fingerprint reading device, e.g., a video camera with an imaging optics. The optical correlator 210 has a spatial light modulator (SLM) 25 to capture an image of a fingerprint and imprints the image thereof on the wavefront of an optical signal beam via spatial light modulation. An optical memory unit having the template database with fingerprints of all authorized users 30

is also included in the optical correlator 210. The input fingerprint carried on the signal beam is simultaneously compared with the template fingerprints of authorized users in the optical memory unit by optical interaction therewith.

5 The electronic processor 220 stores the secret sequence codes of all authorized users that are associated with the fingerprints stored in the optical memory unit. The user's stack memory and the secret sequence code database are included in the electronic processor 220. The electronic

10 processor 220 performs multiple tasks including registration of the entered fingerprint in the user's stack memory, sequence code identification based on the results from optical correlator 210, overall system monitoring, coordination and controlling. The output terminal 230

15 informs the user on instructions, processing status and results by a video display and/or an audio device. The input terminal 200 and the output terminal 230 can be integrated as one user interface unit.

The spatial light modulator (SLM) in the optical correlator imprints an input fingerprint on a laser beam. This can be done by first converting the image of a fingerprint into electrical signals with a photosensor and then modulating a laser beam with the electrical signals thereof. An example of such SLM is a liquid crystal display light valve. Another way is directly using a laser beam to impinge on the fingerprint and thereby to obtain the pattern of the fingerprint. The electronic processor 220 can be a microprocessor or microcontroller.

One significant advantage of the identification system in Figure 2 is its use of an optical correlator 210 to perform fingerprint recognition. Fingerprint recognition requires processing a large amount of information due to the complex patterns of fingerprints and the nature of image

processing. Electronic digital processing suffers in speed in performing such tasks because of the serial processing method and the limited computing power of current microprocessors. In contrast, an optical correlator can 5 perform an image recognition using parallel processing at a speed close to the speed of light by using photons to carry information and by using holographic storage media that can be accessed in parallel fashion. In a practical fingerprint 10 identification system for the processes shown in Figure 1, the processing speed is important since a user can quickly loses patience and interest in using such a system that 15 responds slowly.

An optical correlator that processes images with 20 analog signals usually has a loose-logic due to cross correlations of different images and limited signal to noise 25 ratios. This limits the use of optical correlators in many applications that require a positive identification in spite of the fast processing speed of such optical correlators. Since the present invention allows a loose-logic in fingerprint recognition by using both secret sequence codes and multiple fingerprints for further identification, an analog optical correlator can be used in practicing the present invention. This takes the advantage of the fast processing capability without compromise in identification 30 performance.

Figure 3 shows one preferred embodiment of such 35 optical correlators that is used for the identification system depicted in Figure 2. A coherent optical beam generated by a laser source (not shown) is split into reference beam 320 and a signal beam 302, both of which are collimated plane waves. Both beams are needed to record and update the fingerprints of an authorized user in a template database stored in a holographic medium 300. Only the

signal beam 302 is needed to perform an identification process.

The image of a user's fingerprint is imprinted on the signal beam 302 by a spatial light modulator (SLM) 304. A lens 306 Fourier-transforms the image on the SLM 304 to the Fourier plane. Since the feature information of the input image is in the high spatial frequency components of the Fourier transform, the DC component at the center of the Fourier plane 307 is blocked by a spatial filer 308. Such DC filtering performs an edge enhancement in the input image. According to the present invention, the spacing between the SLM 304 and lens 306 can be an arbitrary distance but is preferably the focal length of lens 306. Lenses 310 and 314 form an imaging relay system to replicate the image in the Fourier plane 307 to the holographic medium 300. A spatial filter 312 is used to remove the components from the edges of the SLM 304. Such edge filtering by filter 312 is desirable to reduce the cross-correlation between different images since the edges of the SLM are common to all the input images.

The reference beam 320 is a collimated plane wave which does not carry image information. Reference beam 320 interferes with the Fourier transform of image-bearing signal beam 302 at the holographic medium 300 to record holograms therein to generate the template database for fingerprint identification. A motorized steering optical assembly 322 allows adjustment of the direction of the reference beam 320 to a 4f imaging system formed by lenses 324 and 326. The 4f imaging system images the reference beam 320 at 322 to the holographic medium 300 and maintains the illuminated area on the holographic medium 300 by the reference beam 320 unchanged while the direction of the reference beam 320 to the 4f system is changed. The

motorized steering optical assembly 322 is controlled by the electronic processor 220 of Figure 2.

The output portion of the optical correlator includes a Fourier-transforming lens 330, an output screen 332, and a CCD array 334. In particular, the CCD array 334 serves as an output interface from the optical correlator to the electronic processor 220. Various methods are used in the present invention to couple the output signal from lens 330 to the CCD array 334. For example, one way is to use a white screen as the output screen 332. Thus, the CCD array 334 is used to capture the reflected images from the screen instead of the transmitted signals as depicted in Figure 3. In this method, the CCD array 334 is located on the same side of the screen 332 with the Fourier lens 330. Another example is to place the CCD array 334 directly at the Fourier plane of the lens 330. This eliminates the screen 332.

Both signal beam 302 and reference beam 320 are needed to store a fingerprint into the holographic medium 300 as the template database. The fingerprint to be stored is entered from the input terminal 200 which further sends the fingerprint image to SLM 304 in the optical correlator 210. The holographic medium 300 records the interference patterns of the reference beam 320 and the Fourier transform of the image of the input fingerprint. Both angle and fractal multiplexing techniques are employed to superimpose a plurality of different fingerprints in the same recording area of the holographic medium 300. Different fingerprints are recorded as holograms with the reference beam 320 at different angles controlled by the motorized steering optical assembly 322.

In addition, the same angle and fractal multiplexing mechanisms are used to spatially register a particular

fingerprint of a particular user in the template database within the holographic medium 300 to a spot located on the output screen 332 that is uniquely assigned to the correlation peak corresponding to that fingerprint. The 5 spatial location of a correlation spot corresponding to a fingerprint on the output screen 332 is further registered in the memory unit of the electronic processor 220 via a positioning registration of the CCD array 334 relative to the output screen 332. According to the present invention, 10 the correlation peaks of different fingerprints appear at different locations on the output screen 332.

As described previously, the way that a fingerprint is entered, such as time sequence or spatial position at the input surface, forms the fingerprint sequence code of the 15 present invention. After all the fingerprints of an authorized user are recorded in the holographic medium 300, a template database for that user is completed. In addition, the information of that particular user's 20 fingerprint sequence code is also recorded and stored in a sequence code database in the electronic processor 220.

The above recording process is repeated to store the data for all authorized users in the holographic medium 300 and the electronic processor 220. Thus a template database and a sequence code database for a plurality of users are 25 established.

The optical diffraction efficiency of a hologram is inversely proportional to the square of the number of superimposed holograms in the same recording area. Therefore, there is a limit to the number of fingerprints 30 that can be stored in one location in the holographic medium 300. One method to further increase the storage capacity is spatial multiplexing wherein multiple recording areas that are spatially separated or partially overlapped with each

other are used to record holograms. Each recording area is recorded with a plurality of angle multiplexed and fractal multiplexed holograms. A mechanism must be in place to physically move that particular recording area into the signal beam 302 or vice versa to access the information in a particular recording area. One example of such mechanism is to spin the holographic medium 300 that is in a shape of a circular disk with a motor that is controlled by the electronic processor 220.

To identify a user, the reference beam 320 is turned off and the signal beam 302 is used for identity processing. The user to be identified enters fingerprints which are simultaneously compared with the fingerprints of authorized users in the holographic medium 300 by the optical correlator. The image of an entered fingerprint is Fourier transformed by the lens 306 and multiplied with the Fourier-transformed holograms of the template fingerprints in the holographic medium 300. Next, a inverse Fourier transform of the multiplication thereabove is performed by the Fourier lens 330. Therefore, the correlation pattern of the entered fingerprint and the template fingerprints is formed on the output screen 332 which is located in the Fourier plane of the lens 330.

A correlation peak appears on the output screen 332 if the entered fingerprint is similar to one template fingerprint in the database and is entered at a similar orientation of that template fingerprint. The brightness of a correlation peak is a function of the degree of similarity between the images and it increases if there is more similarity between the images. The electronic processor 220 identifies the entered fingerprint as a fingerprint belonging to the database if the intensity of the correlation peak is greater than a predetermined threshold

value. The orientation of an input fingerprint is important because the optical correlator in Figure 3 based on Fourier transform is rotation-variant. No correlation peak appears if a right fingerprint is entered at a wrong orientation or 5 a wrong fingerprint is entered. Furthermore, as described thereabove, the location of a bright correlation spot on the output screen 332 indicates whose fingerprint and more specifically which fingerprint of that person is matched.

As a fingerprint is entered and compared against the 10 authorized fingerprints in the template database, registration of a sequence code is made in the user' stack memory by the electronic processor 220. If there is a match, one space in the matched authorized user's stack is registered. Otherwise, no registration is made in the 15 user's stack memory. After the user to be identified finishes entering all fingerprints, the electronic processor 220 compares the entries in the authorized user's stack memory with the corresponding sequence code in the database. The system performs this comparing process for all 20 authorized users in the database to make either a positive or a negative identification of the user.

The optical correlator in Figure 3 can be packaged in a compact unit by using miniature components and devices. For example, a compact diode laser or a diode-based solid- 25 state laser can be used to produce the reference beam 320 and the signal beam 302.

Another optical correlator for implementing the present invention is an optical correlator based on four-wave mixing in a nonlinear holographic medium. In this 30 optical correlator, three mutually coherent laser beams are required with a first beam being a plane wave, a second beam carrying an image to be identified, and a third beam carrying the images in the template database. The wave

vectors of the three beams must meet the phase-matching criterion. The template database does not have to be prerecorded in the holographic medium. The Fourier transforms of the two image-bearing beams and the plane wave interact with each other through nonlinear mixing in the nonlinear holographic medium and generate a fourth output beam. The correlation signal is obtained by Fourier-transforming the fourth output beam. In particular, a joint transform correlator based on nonlinear four-wave mixing is advantageous for many applications since the template images can be updated in real-time.

Figure 4 shows a preferred embodiment of the present invention using analog electronic image processing. The fingerprints of all authorized users are obtained, converted into digital form, and stored in the template database in the electronic processor 410. The user's stack memory and the secret sequence code database are also included in the electronic processor 410. In operation, an input terminal 400 converts the two-dimensional image of a fingerprint into electrical signal which is further transformed pixel by pixel into digital format. A microprocessor 410 compares the input fingerprint with the digital template database. The digital template database stores the fingerprints of authorized users in form of Fourier transform. The correlation process is carried out pixel by pixel as follows. A first pixel of the input fingerprint is Fourier-transformed and multiplied by the conjugate of the Fourier transform of the corresponding pixel in the template database. Next, the reverse Fourier transform of the multiplication is performed and thus a correlation for that pixel is completed. The above process repeats until all pixels are processed. A predetermined threshold intensity value for a positive correlation is used.

As a fingerprint is entered and compared against the authorized fingerprints in the template database, registration of a sequence code is made in the user's stack memory by the microprocessor 410. If there is a match, one space in the matched authorized user's stack is registered. Otherwise, no registration is made in the user's stack memory. After the user to be identified finishes entering all fingerprints, the electronic processor 410 compares the entries in the authorized user's stack memory with the corresponding sequence code in the database. The system performs this comparing process for all authorized users in the database to make either a positive or a negative identification of the user. Furthermore, various sequence coding methods can be used with the embodiment shown in Figure 4 including, but are not limited to, the five methods described previously and any combination thereof.

The above-described preferred embodiment in Figure 4 uses an analog processing technique to carry out image recognition with electronic devices as opposed to optical devices as in Figure 3. Electronic processor 410 processes the image data from an entered fingerprint and stored template fingerprints of authorized users bit by bit in a serial fashion while the optical correlator in Figure 3 processes all the image data simultaneously in parallel. According to the present invention, one alternative way to perform fingerprint recognition by electronic means is to use a digital signal processing (DSP) technique.

Only certain significant features of a fingerprint is obtained to form a digital representation of the fingerprint with DSP technique instead of every bit of information from the entire fingerprint. This significantly reduces the amount of data from a fingerprint without losing the essential information needed for identification. If an

entered fingerprint has the same significant features as an authorized user in the template database, a positive identification is made. Multiple different fingerprint can be used for redundancy. According to the present invention, a correct sequence code formed by fingerprints is still needed in order for the system to make a final positive identification. A fast processing speed can be achieved since the total amount of data to be processed is significantly reduced.

In summary, the present invention uses a secret sequence code formed by information from human body parts to positively identify a user. A sequence code is entered by the user using body parts and is compared with a secured sequence code known only to that user. Any body parts can be used for identification and any methods can be employed to generate a sequence code. According to the present invention, a user is positively identified only if user has the right body parts and the correct sequence code formed by the body parts.

Although the present invention has been described in detail with reference to a number of particular embodiments, one ordinarily skilled in the art to which this invention pertains will appreciate that various modifications and enhancements may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Some examples of variations and ramifications in accordance with the present invention are listed as follows:

It should be understood that the combination entered could be based on any aspect of the human body part, including features of other body portions, retinal scans, and the like. In particular, different information indicative of one body part can be used in accordance with the present invention. In case of a finger, the information

of pressure or temperature can be used instead of the fingerprint.

The inventors also contemplate that this system may be useable in operations that require multiple users to each acquiesce, such as in a combination lock requiring multiple user entry information. An entry from multiple users includes body features from each user.

Any body features and any method of sequence generation can be used. For example, iris scanning and fingerprints can be used in combination to achieve redundancy and a sequence code in the present invention.

The present invention can be practiced with any body feature input device (i.e., a thermosensor, a pressure sensor, a IR imaging device), any body feature recognition device (i.e., optical correlators, microcontroller, microprocessors or other digital computers), and any recognition algorithm (i.e., correlation, wavelet transforms, probabilistic match).

Other devices and algorithms for comparing an entered sequence code and an authorized one are implied.

The present invention also implies an identification system wherein body features such as fingerprints are used for a first stage of identification and a PIN formed by numerical numbers, alphabetic letters, or any combination thereof is used for a second stage of identification. A keyboard-type input device may be incorporated in the input terminal of the system to accommodate entry of letters and numbers.

All these and other modifications are intended to be encompassed within the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A human identity recognizing system, comprising:

an input device, operating to obtain a piece of first information indicative of a first body part and a first sequence code from a first user;

an identification device, operating to compare said first information of said first user against a piece of second information indicative of a second body part of a second user to determine whether said first information matches said second information based on a pre-determined comparison criterion;

said identification device further operating to compare said first sequence code against a second sequence code, to ascertain whether said first sequence code matches said second sequence code; and

said human identity recognizing system identifying said first user as said second user only if said comparison criterion is met by said first information from said first user and said first sequence code matches said second sequence code.

2. A system as in claim 1, further including an output device for outputting information from said human identity recognizing system.

3. A system as in claim 2, wherein said output device includes a video display, or an audio device, or a video-audio device.

4. A system as in claim 1, wherein said identification device further includes:

a body feature recognizing device, operating to compare said first information of said first user against said second information indicative of said second body part of said second user; and

a sequence code comparing device, operating to compare said first sequence code against said second sequence code.

5. A system as in claim 4, wherein both said body feature recognizing device and said sequence code comparing device are electronic devices.

6. A system as in claim 4, wherein said body feature recognizing device is an optical correlator.

7. A system as in claim 6, wherein said optical correlator includes:

a coherent light source, operating to produce coherent light;

a spatial light modulator receiving image information indicative of said first information that is indicative of said first body part, and operating to imprint said image information onto said coherent light to produce a first optical image;

a holographic medium having Fourier-transformed holographic information indicative of said second information that is indicative of said second body part from said second user;

an optical relay, disposed to Fourier-transform said first optical image to said holographic medium; said

first optical image interacting with said holographic medium to produce a signal beam; and

an output lens and a signal receiver; said output lens Fourier-transforming said signal beam to said signal receiver.

8. A system as in claim 7, wherein said coherent light source is a diode laser, or a diode-pumped laser.

9. A system as in claim 7, wherein said holographic medium further includes Fourier-transformed information indicative of a piece of third information that is indicative of a third body part from a third user.

10. A system as in claim 9, wherein images in said holographic medium are recorded and superimposed with an angle multiplexing method and a fractal multiplexing method.

11. A system as in claim 10, wherein information of said angle multiplexing method and fractal multiplexing method are used to register said images in said signal receiver.

12. A system as in claim 11 wherein:

said Fourier-transformed information indicative of said second information from said second user is registered to one spatial location on said signal receiver; and

said Fourier-transformed information indicative of said third information from said third user is registered to another spatial location on said signal receiver.

13. A system in claim 6, wherein said sequence code comparing device is an electronic device.

14. A system as in claim 1, wherein said input device is an imaging device, operating to obtain an image of a human body part.

15. A system as in claim 1, wherein said first sequence code includes said first information indicative of said first body part from said first user, and said second sequence code includes said second information indicative of said second body part from said second user.

16. A human body-recognizing combination lock comprising:

a body part imaging device, which operates to obtain an image of human body part;

an image comparing computational element, responsive to multiple images from said imaging device, and operating to compare said images against a first pre-determined criterion at a first time to ascertain whether a first of said images meets said pre-determined criterion and to compare a second of said images against a second criterion at a second time to determine whether said second image meets said second criterion, and producing an output recognition signal only if both said both first and second criterion are met.

17. Apparatus as in Claim 16 wherein said computational element also detects a third of said images at a third time, subsequent to said first and second times, and comparing said third image at said third time against a third pre-determined criterion, said recognition signal

being output only when all of said first, second and third images meet said pre-determined criterion in the proper order.

18. Apparatus as in claim 16 wherein said body part imaging device is a fingerprint identifier.

19. Apparatus as in claim 18 further comprising a memory, storing a plurality of images forming a database of allowable fingerprints to be recognized, and wherein said pre-determined criteria comprises a match between the input image and one of said images stored in said database by a pre-determined amount.

20. A combination detecting apparatus comprising:
A body part information part, receiving information indicative of a body part, and producing an output signal indicative of said information about said body part;

a recognizing device, connected to receive said information, and to compare said information against pre-determined criteria;

said pre-determined criterion having a probability of success which is not sufficient to allow said pre-determined criterion to be used by itself, said computing element comparing said images received at least three different times against said pre-determining criterion, and outputting a signal indicative of proper recognition only when said at least three signals are correctly recognized in the correct order.

21. A biometric sequence code for identification, comprising:

a first part which is a first body feature that is obtained from a first body part from a user in a first way at a first time; and

a second part which is a second body feature that is obtained from a second body part from said user in a second way at a second time.

22. A biometric sequence code as in claim 21, wherein said first way includes a first time duration and said second way includes a second time duration, respectively.

23. A biometric sequence code as in claim 22, wherein said first body part is identical to said second body part and said first body feature is identical to said second body feature, respectively; thereby said biometric sequence code resembling a Morse code.

24. A biometric sequence code as in claim 21, wherein said first way includes a first orientation of said first body part and said second way includes a second orientation of said second body part relative to said first orientation thereof.

25. A biometric sequence code as in claim 24, wherein said first body part is identical to said second body part and said first body feature is identical to said second body feature, respectively.

26. A biometric sequence code as in claim 21, wherein said first way includes a first spatial position of said first body part and said second way includes a second spatial position of said second body part relative to said first spatial position, respectively.

27. A biometric sequence code as in claim 26, wherein said first body part is identical to said second body part and said first body feature is identical to said second body feature, respectively.

28. A biometric sequence code as in claim 26, wherein said first way further includes a first orientation of said first body part and said second way further includes a second orientation of said second body part relative to said first orientation thereof, respectively.

29. A biometric sequence code as in claim 21, further including a third body feature that is obtained from a third body part of another user in a third way.

30. A biometric sequence code as in claim 29, wherein said first way and said second way are subject to limitations as in claim 22 and said third way includes a third time duration.

31. A biometric sequence code as in claim 29, wherein said first way and said second way are subject to limitations as in claim 24 and said third way includes a third orientation of said third body part.

32. A biometric sequence code as in claim 29, wherein said first way and said second way are subject to limitations as in claim 26 and said third way includes a third spatial position of said third body part.

33. A biometric sequence code as in claim 21, further including a third body feature from said user that is entered at a third time; said third body feature being substantially similar to said first body feature from said first body part.

34. A biometric sequence code as in claim 21, wherein said first body feature and said second body feature are obtained simultaneously.

35. A biometric sequence code as in claim 34, wherein said first way includes a first spatial position of said first body part and said second way includes a second spatial position of said second body part, relative to said first spatial position thereof, respectively.

36. A biometric sequence code as in claim 35, wherein said first way further includes a first orientation of said first body part and said second way further includes a second orientation of said second body part relative to said first orientation thereof, respectively.

37. A biometric sequence code as in claim 21, wherein said first body part is a finger.

38. A biometric sequence code as in claim 37, wherein said first body feature is a fingerprint.

39. A biometric sequence code as in claim 21, wherein said first body part is an eye.

40. A biometric sequence code as in claim 39, wherein said first body feature is a retinal scan.

41. A biometric sequence code as in claim 38, wherein said second body feature is a retinal scan of an eye.

42. An identity recognizing method by using biometric information, comprising:

obtaining a piece of biometric information from a body part of a user;

obtaining a code entry of said user;

comparing said user's biometric information of said body part against a pre-selected identification feature of said body part from an authorized user to ascertain whether said user's biometric information matches said pre-selected identification feature from said body part from said authorized user based a pre-determined comparison criterion;

comparing said code entry against a secret code; and

producing a positive identification of said user only if said comparison criterion is met by said user's biometric information and said code entry of said user matches said secret code of said authorized user.

43. A method as in claim 42, wherein said secret code is formed by alphabetic letters, or numerical numbers, or a combination thereof.

44. A method as in claim 42, wherein said secret code is a sequence formed by using said body part.

45. A method as in claim 42, further including comparing a plurality of other body parts of said user with said authorized user.

46. A method as in claim 45, wherein a combination of said body part and said plurality of other body parts is used for constructing said secret code.

47. A method as in claim 42, wherein said body part is a finger.

48. A method as in claim 47, wherein said biometric information is a fingerprint of said finger.

49. A method as in claim 42, wherein said body part is an eye.

50. A method as in claim 49, wherein said biometric information is a retinal scan of said eye.

51. A method as in claim 42, wherein said comparing includes a correlation process.

52. A method as in claim 42, wherein said comparing includes a probabilistic match process.

53. A method as in claim 42, wherein said comparing includes wavelet transforms.

54. A method as in claim 42, further comprising transforming and compressing said user's biometric information of said body part into a plurality of significant feature parameters in digital form using a digital signal processing method.

55. A method as in claim 45, wherein said body part is a finger and one of said plurality of other body parts is an eye.

56. A method as in claim 55, wherein said biometric information is a fingerprint from said finger, and biometric information from said eye is a retinal scan thereof.

57. A method as in claim 42, further including comparing a plurality of body parts from a plurality users against a plurality of body parts from a plurality authorized users.

58. A method as in claim 57, wherein said secret code is a sequence formed by using said plurality of body parts from said plurality authorized users.

1/4

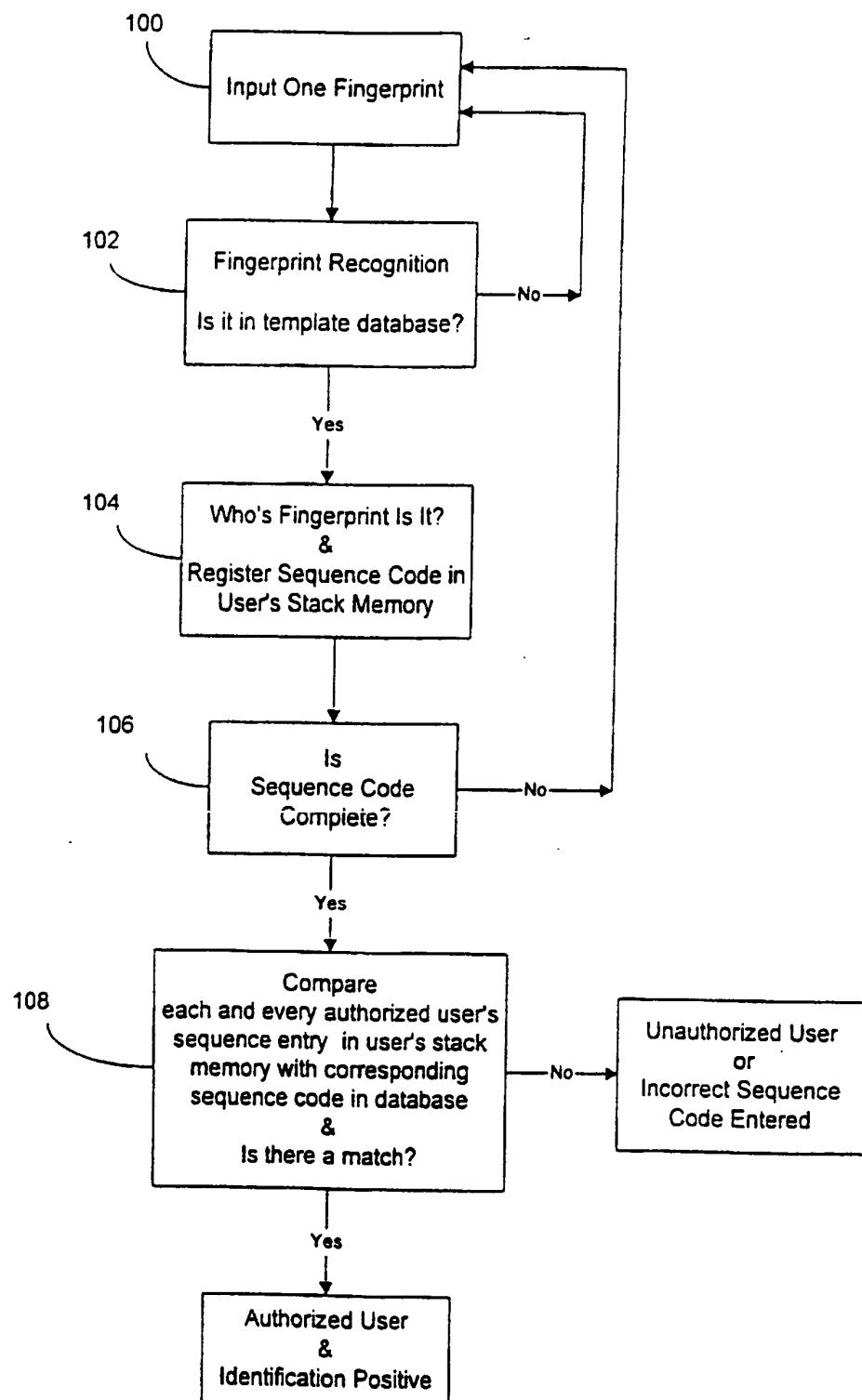


Figure 1

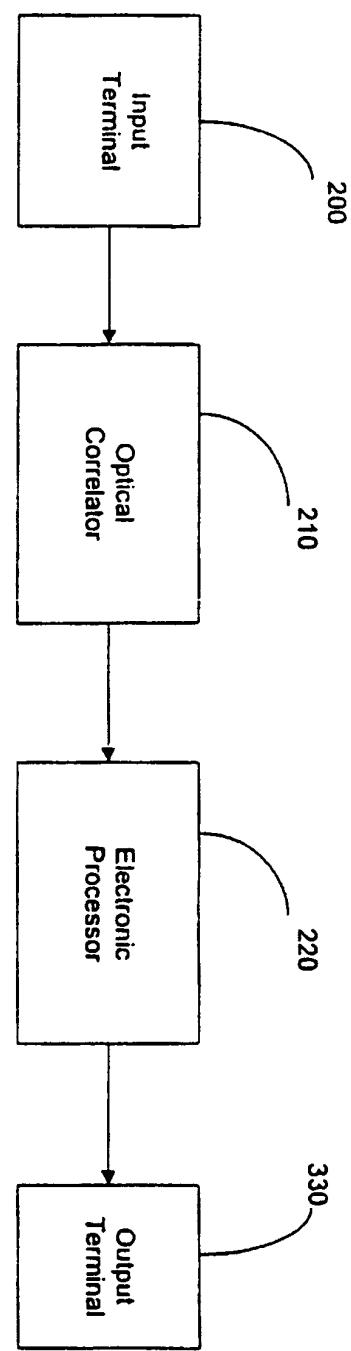


Figure 2

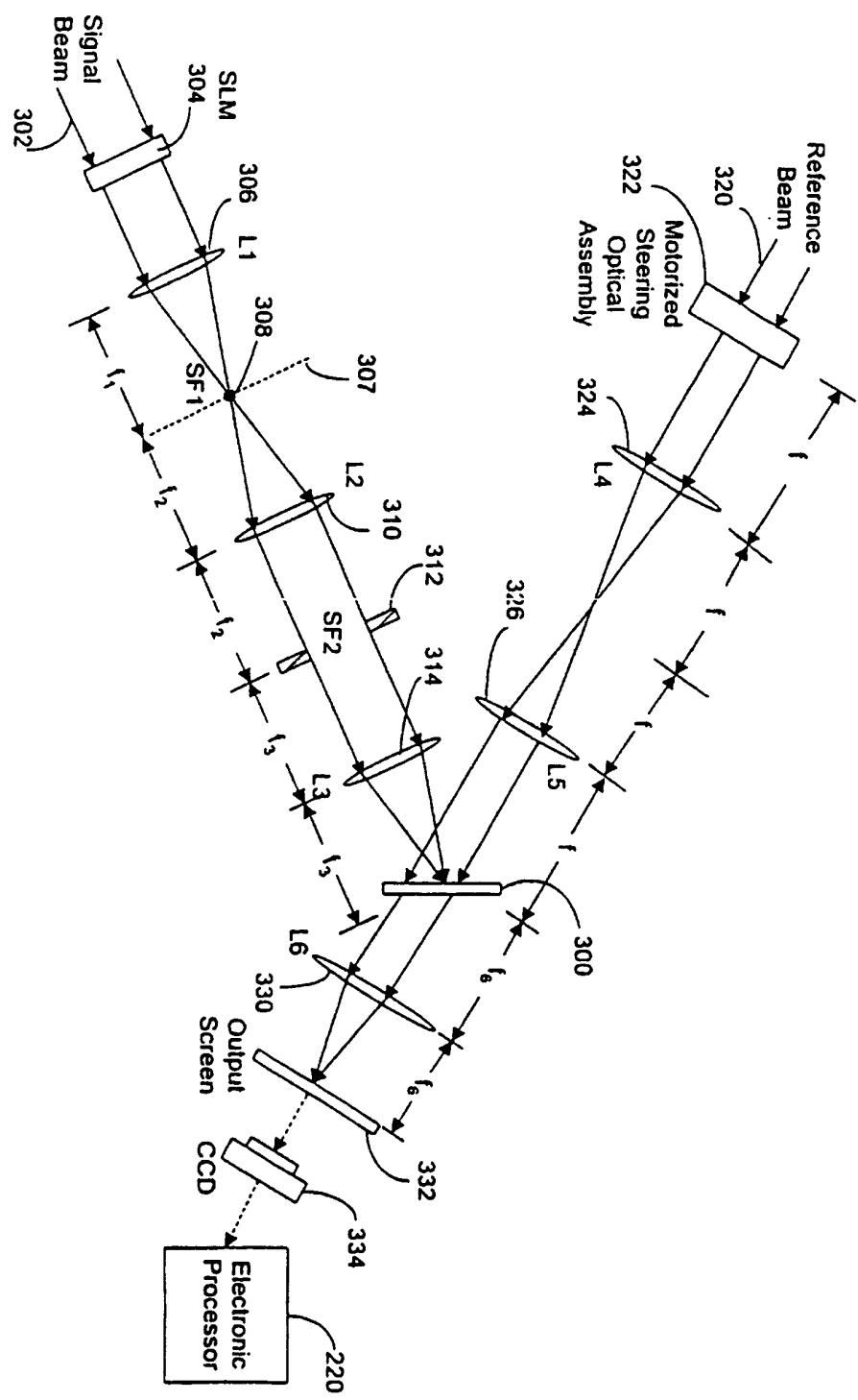
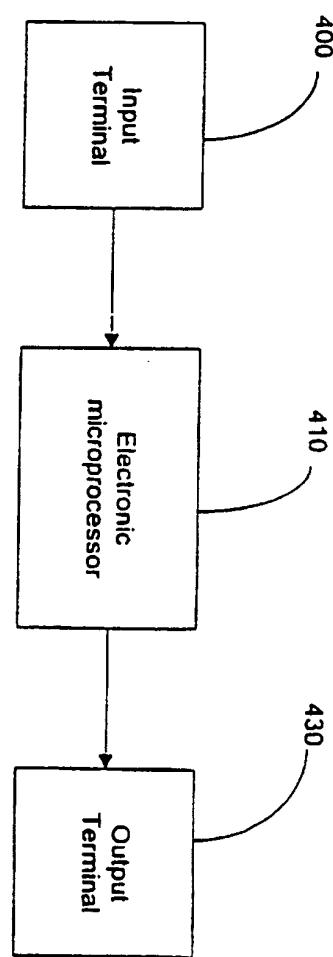


Figure 3

Figure 4



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US97/13081

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :G06K 5/00, 9/00; G06F 7/04

US CL :382/115, 116, 124; 340/825.3, 825.31; 235/382, 382.5

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 382/115, 116, 124; 340/825.3, 825.31; 235/382, 382.5

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

APS, MAYA

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P	US 5,615,277 A (HOFFMAN) 25 March 1997, abstract, Figure 2, col. 6, lines 36-51, col. 14, lines 15-28.	1-5, 14-15, 42-58 ----- 6-13, 16-20
Y,P		
Y	US 5,339,305 A (CURTIS ET AL) 16 August 1994, abstract, the entire document.	6-13
Y	US 5,337,043 A (GOKCEBAY) 09 August 1994, abstract, Figure 3	16-20
A	US 4,805,222 A (YOUNG ET AL) 14 February 1989, abstract.	16-20
A	US 4,729,128 A (GRIMES ET AL) 01 March 1988, abstract, entire document.	1-5, 42-58

<input type="checkbox"/>	Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input type="checkbox"/>	See patent family annex.
A	Special categories of cited documents:	*T*	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance		
E	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*X*	document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
L	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*Y*	document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
O	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	*A*	document member of the same patent family
P	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
07 NOVEMBER 1997	23 DEC 1997
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231	Authorized officer BHAVESH MEHTA Telephone No. (703) 308-5246
Faximile No. (703) 305-3230	<i>Jon. Hall</i>

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US97/13081

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Please See Extra Sheet.

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
1-20 and 42-58
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US97/13081

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION WAS LACKING

This ISA found multiple inventions as follows:

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be searched, the appropriate additional search fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-15 AND 42-58, drawn to Personnel Identification using a combination of features classified in class 382 subclass 116.

Group II, claim(s) 16-20, drawn to Authorization Control classified in class 340 subclass 825.31.

Group III, claim(s) 21-41, drawn to Registers with Permitting Access classified in class 235 subclass 382.

The inventions listed as Groups I, II and III do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the special technical feature of Group I is the input from the first user of the first body part information and the first sequence code claimed therein while the special technical feature of Group II is the human recognizing combination lock recited therein while the special technical feature of Group III is the first body part feature and second body part feature obtained at two different times. Since the special technical feature of Group I is not present in any of Groups II and III, the special technical feature of Group II is not present in any of Groups I and III and the special technical feature of Group III is not present in any of Groups II and I, unity of invention is lacking.